

THE
TERRIBLE AND
 deserued death of Francis
 RAVILLIACK, SHEWING THE MAN-
 ner of his strange torments at his Execution, vpon Fri-
 day the 25. of May last past, for the murder of
 the late French King Henry the

Fourth.

TOGETHER WITH AN ABSTRACT OVE
 of diuers proclamations, and Edicts, now con-
 cerning the state of France.

As it was printed in French in three severall
 Bookes published by authority.



EDINBURGH
 Printed by Robert Charrētis,

1610.



The true manner of the strange execution of Francis Rauilliack (for the late murder of the French King, Henry the fourth) who was tormented to death, vpon a scaffould in the Citie of Paris the 25. of May last. 1610.



HE most inhumane murder lately committed vpon the person of the late French King, Henry the fourth of famous memory, hath much disquieted the state of France & so busied other kingdomes, in hunting after the true reports thereof, so farre forth, that we thinke it an interiour loue to our countrymen to haue an abstract of the most occurrences that happened since that vnnaturall accident: and first to begin with the viperous homicide the bloody actor of this deede, who strove with the enuy of his heart, to draw in peeces the bowels that cherished his life, (flourishing France I meane) that prooues abortiue in bringing forth such an vnnaturall Frenchman

This paracide, Francis Rauillack, in time past of the order of the Felician fryers, but of late a practitioner in the law (by some named a pettifogger) born in the town of Angouleme, a place not far distant from the City of Paris, who after hee had vnluckely accomplished this bloodie stratagem, by taking away the preseruer of so many liues, was vpon the 21. of May last, arraigned, convicted, and condemned by due order of law, in the great Court and chamber of Turnella in Paris, before all the assemblies, Presidents, Councillors, & commissioners, at the request of Du Viquet, Attorney Generall to the King, whose place & authority was thereunto inquired against this Francis

Raulliack for the murder of his late soueraigne, Henry the fourth King of France & Nauarre, whereupon this Francis Raulliack, with a sad and death like countenance holding vp his guilty hand before this greatesse assembly, presently confessed guilty, and that he became his countreys shame, only by the instigation of the deuill, and none any other accomplices, & confederates would he reueale but in a satanicall manner vowed himselfe to secrecie, wherupon the law proceeded, & a most terrible sentence of death pronounced against him there, according to a generall decree of that great court of parliament, and so being a condemned villaine was with a strong gard of armed men conueyed to prison, otherwise by the violent rage of the common people, hee had been torne in peeces such was the loue they bore to their late King.

Vpon the Fryday following, being the 25. of May (according to their computation) this Francis Raulliack was in a most vile and base manner caried to the execution as followeth.

First, (naked in his shirt) he was brought out of the Carcerery, (becing the prison for the pallsace) with a lighted Torch of two pound waight in one hand, and the knife (wherwith he killed the king) chained to the other hand so openly to bee seene, that the least child there present might behold it: after this hee was placed standing vp-right in a tumbrell or dungcart, and so from thence, conducted with a gard of Citizens to the Capitall Church in Paris, where being adjudged to doe penance he had bene made a sacrifice to the rage of the rude people, had not there bene appointed Officers to see his execution preuented it.

After this, being accompanied to the place of execution with two doctors of diuinity, all the way perswading him to save his soule from euerlasting punishment, by reuealing and laying open his Associates therein, which he would not, but stiffely (though vngraciously) tooke the bloody burthen vpon his owne shoulders, withstanding,

even to the death, all faire promises whatsoeuer. In this manner, as I said before, was he caried to the Greue, being a spacious street, & about the middle of Paris, where was builded a very substantiall scaffould of strong timber, whereupon according to his iudgement he was to be sentenced to death. *De Viquez* the Kings Attourney generall was appointed principall to see the execution; and there so gather (if he could) some further light of this vncertainlike conspiracie.

This here following was the manner of his death: an example of terror made knowne to the world to conuert all bloody minded traitors from the like enterprise. At his first comming vpon the scaffold, he crossed himselfe directly ouer the breast, a signe that hee did liue and die an obstinate Papist. Whereupon by the Executioners, he was bound to an Engine of Wood and Iron, made like to a S. Andrewes crosse, according to the fashion of his body, and then the hand with the knife chained to it, (where with he slew the king) and halfe the arme was put into an artificiall furnace, then flaming with fire and Brimstone, wherein the knife, his right hand, and halfe the arm adioyning to it, was in most terrible manner consumed, yet nothing at all would he confesse: but yelled out with such horrible cries as if it had bin a Deuil, or some tormented soule in Hell. And surely if hels tortures might be felt on earth, it was approued in this mans punishment, & thogh he deserved quitiues more yet humane nature might inforce vs to pity his distress. After this with tongs & Iron pincers made red hot in the same furnace, the appointed Executioners, pinched & seared the dugs of his breasts, the bawnes of his Armes & thighes, with the calues of his legs, & other fleshy parts of his body, cutting out collops of flesh, and burned them before his face: afterward into the same wounds thus made, they powred scalding Oyle, Rosen, Pitch, & Brimstone, melted together, yet would he reueale nothing, but that he did it of himself by the instigation of the diuell, & the reason, because the King

King tolerated two religions in his kingdom: On small occasion, that for this cause one seruile slave, should thus quench the great light of *France*, whose brightnes glistered through Europe: but to passe further into this strange execution according to the sentence pronounced against him, they put vpon his Nauell a rundle of clay, very hard with a hole in the midst, and into the same hole powred they moulted lead, til it was filled, yet reuealed he nothing but cryed out with most horrible roares, even like the dying man tormented in the Brazen Bull of the Tyrant *Phalaris*. But now to come to the finishing vp of his life, and that the last torture might in severity equall the first they caused foure strong horses to be brought to tear his body in peeces, & to separate his limbes into four quarters, where being ready to pay his last punishment, hee was questioned againe to make known the truth, but he would not, & so died without speaking one word of God or remembering the danger of his soule.

But so strongly was his flesh and ioynts knit together, that of long time, these four horses could not dismember him, nor any way teare one ioynt from the other, so that one of the horses fainted, the which a Merechant of the City of Paris perceiuing, put to one of his owne being a horse of exceeding great strength, yet notwithstanding for all this, they were constrained to cut the flesh vnder his armes & thighes with a sharp rasor, by which means his body was the easier torn in peeces: which being done the rage of the people grew so violent, that they snatched the dismembred carcasle out of the executioners hands, some beate it in sunder against the ground, others cut it in peeces with knives, so that there was nothing left but bones, which were brought to the place of execution and there burned to cinders, the ashes whereof was scattered into the wind, as being thought vnworthy of the earths buriall. God in his iustice I will hope in the like maner reward al such as repine at their coutries safety & desperately attempt to lift their hands against Gods appointed.

The breses taken of diuers Edicts and decrees lately proclaimed in France in this place.

LEWES the thirteenth by the grace of God, King of France and Nauarre to all his loving subiects, health.

Whereas the inhumane murder of our late deceased Father, Henry the fourth of famous memory, is as faire as Law and Iustice can reach vnto, reuenged vpon the body of that parricide Francis Rauailiac, whose death sufficiently witnesseth, and now stands registred an example of seuerity in such a cause, yet nature and duty bindeth vs to ad this further vnto it: we therefore by the aduise of our foure Courts of Parliament, the Lords thereof, spirituall & temporal, that all the lands, goods, goods, & catels late belonging to the foresaid traitor Francis Rauailiac, shal be confiscate to our vse, & also the house in Angolessme, wherein he was borne, to be vitterly ruinated, & be conuerted into a common leasall & in the same place neuer any more house to be built: Also we by our authority, do decree and command, that the Father & Mother of the said Francis Rauailiac, bee for euer banished our Kingdom of France, & al the prouinces belonging therunto, not to be seene after the date of seuenteen daies be expired neuer to return vpon paine of hanging: Also we ordaine, that the vncles, brothers, sisters, & al his kindred neuer to take vpon the name of Rauailiac, but to take to themselues some other name, vpon the like pain of punishment, as a name vnworthy of our countrie, Al which we do command to be proclaimed threghout al our prouinces, by the sound of Trumpet, as the order is. For the prosecution of which busines, we do giue ful authority to du Vicquet, our Attorney Generall, Dated at our Pallace in Paris the 29. of may 1610. and signed with the greatesseale of yellow wax, by the Lord, **POTIER,**

A briesse of letters patents giuen to the Queene.

LEWES the 13. by the grace of God, King of France, & Nauarre, &c. To our friends and faithfull Counsellors of our Court of Parliament of Regam, health:

Looking to the necessity of the time, & for the maintenance of the state in peace, vpon the miserable accident committed vpon the person of our most royal King & Father, & being in our minority, we do establish & make this good order for the preservation of our louing subiects, to liue in the vnion & concord as they did in the time of our Father, and as by the Councel of our Royall Mother, Princes of our blood, other Princes, Prelats, Dukes, Peeres, and Officers of the Crowne, we are transported to this our Parliament of Paris, and being seated in our seate of Iustice, wee doe fully yelde our whole gouernment to our Mother, to haue care of vs, and protect vs till we come to age, not suffering any custome to bee denied; but all things to be performed, & continued in as good force, as they did in our Fathers time to the quiet of our land, & the peace of our louing subiects: giuen at our palace in Paris the 18. of may 1610. and of our raigne the first.

Scene, published and registred in Court by *du Vicquet*, Attourney General, the aforesaid 18, of May, Signed likewise by *de Boyleusque*, Secretary to the Parliament of Roan, and proclaimed in every prouince, that none hereafter shall pretend cause of ignorance.

By the King.

L E T *E* the 13. by the grace of God King of France & Navarre &c. To all our louing subiects to whome this shall appertain, he alibz
 Since the vnhappy murder of our late Father: the Queen our royall mother now regent ouer vs, hauing teares in her eyes and sorrow in her heart, hath not let to work with great magnanimity and prouidence for this vnnaturall accident, that it might not be preiudiciall to our person, our Kingdom nor to our subiects, knowing her selfe obliged to that dutie, not onely for the naturall affection she beares vs, but being declared Regent, & loaden with the affaires of the kingdom by the wills and authority of the Princes of our blood & officers of the Parliament, we leauing of the seat of Iustice, by which meanes her paines is great and so happy, to our subiects neere vs and our City of Paris desiring no duty to vs, but to our honoured Lady and mother, for which we do not doubt

doubt of your willingnes, in so dooing, wee shall giue you thanks with our loue.

Furthermore, considering that in times past in the daies of our late father, and other Kings his predecessors, that neither of these two Religions (by vs now tollerated) could not be wreeded out of the Kingdome without much bloodshed; be it now therefore ordained and likewise we do allow both the same within all our Prouinces, without any contradiction as it was in our Fathers time, and the hinderers thereof to be highly punished,

Given at our Palace in Paris the 22. of May, and signed with the great seale of yellow wax: Farewell.

Letters Patents of the King concerning the Edict of Nantes;

VPon the 22. of May there were letters Patents granted, by proclamation, containing the will and intention of the King, for the intertainment of the Edict made in Nantes, concerning articles given to his subjects professing the pretended reformed Religion, published in the Parliament at Roane the 28. of May. 1610.

Upon Sunday their 27. of May were nine thousand Protestants at Church together very peaceably, God be praised.

The King is continually guarded with two hundred horse, and his Swissers, besides the Nobility which mourn greatly.

The Duke de Nevers by aduise is returned from the army.

The hundred thousand men promised to the Marques of Brandenburg doe remaine as they did before, and all the army besides are well.

These be the only last and true newes out of France, taken out of three seuerall books there imprinted, the one at Roane by Martin Mesgissier Printer ordinary to the King.

Another by Peter Courant according to the copy printed at Paris, by Anthony Vitray, by permission of the court.

And another Printed at Roane by the same man, and now an abstract of them all turned into English by R. E.

FINIS.

